

# Special Edition Kansas National Guard 1855 - 2005

# PLAINS GUARDIAN



VOLUME 49 No. 4

Serving the Kansas Army and Air National Guard and Kansas Emergency Management

150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

## It's Official! The Kansas National Guard is 150 years old

Since Aug. 30, 1855, the Kansas National Guard has been the defender of freedom and security in the state. To mark the 150th anniversary of its founding, the Kansas National Guard held a year-long celebration, highlighted by a "Celebration Weekend" Aug. 27 and 28, 2005, in Topeka.

On the hot and humid morning of Aug. 27, representatives from the Kansas National Guard's major commands assembled at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, located at Forbes Field, to take part in an inspection ceremony, a time-honored military tradition. Arranged in ranks, from west to east, participants included Soldiers from Joint Forces Headquarters – Kansas, the 35th Division, 35th Division Artillery, 130th Field Artillery Brigade, 69th Troop Command, 235th Regiment and Airmen from the 184th Air Refueling Wing and 190th Air Refueling Wing.

Three cased flags stood near the eastern end of the formation, representing the 1st Battalion, 635th Armor; 891st Engineer Battalion and 169th Corps Support Battalion, all units that were deployed at the time. Music for the ceremony was performed by the 35th Division Band.

"Good morning, everybody, and Happy Birthday," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, in his remarks.

"In the last century and a half many things have obviously changed for the Citizen-Soldiers of Kansas, like our uniforms, tools of our trade and the complexity of our plans and strategies," he continued. "However the important things remain the same – our basic mission, the loyalty and devotion of our members and our exemplary service to our state and nation."

After reading excerpts from The Adjutant General's Report of 1904, Bunting reminded the audience



**Gov. Kathleen Sebelius accompanied by Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general (left), and Col. Eric Peck, chief of staff for the Kansas Army National Guard, inspect the troops during a special ceremony on Aug. 27, 2005, marking the 150th anniversary of the Kansas National Guard. (Photo by Maj. Toni Truelove)**

of the proud role the Kansas National Guard continues to play in our state.

"Your Guard is made up of the best this state has to offer," said Bunting, addressing the governor. "On this date, the strength and organization of the Kansas National Guard are as follows: The Kansas Army National Guard is 5,500 volunteers strong... Approximately 1,500 Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers are deployed."

"The Kansas Air National Guard is 2,200 volunteers strong... Approximately 140 Kansas Air National Guard Airmen

are currently deployed overseas," he continued. "One hundred fifty years after they first picked up their rifles to defend their homes, Kansas Citizen-Soldiers are still serving with distinction, making their families and neighbors proud, and when required, still willing to pay the ultimate price for our freedom."

"They are doing a tremendous job under difficult conditions," said Bunting, speaking of the Kansas Guard men and women currently serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations around the world. "I am deeply honored to be associated with them."

Receiving the report, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said, "General, I am pleased to accept this report and extend to all the men and women of the Kansas National Guard our heartfelt appreciation for your service. I am proud of each and every one of you."

"As your governor, I pledge my continued support," she continued. "I appreciate the opportunity to review the troops today and represent all Kansans in thanking you for your exemplary service for the last century and a half."

Expressing her

*"In the last century and a half many things have obviously changed for the Citizen-Soldiers of Kansas... However the important things remain the same – our basic mission, the loyalty and devotion of our members and our exemplary service to our state and nation."*

**Maj. Gen Tod Bunting  
The Adjutant General**

pride in the Soldiers and Airmen under her command, Sebelius said "You are in my thoughts and prayers every day. God bless each and every one of you. God bless the great state of Kansas and the United States of America."

Following the ceremony, Gov. Sebelius and the public toured the Museum of the Kansas National Guard and its grounds, where a number of vintage and current military vehicles and equipment were on display. Re-enactors from the Civil War, Spanish American War and World War II eras were camped on the grounds, sharing their knowledge and demonstrating equipment used during those periods.

Military re-enactors were also the highlight of a concert presented by the 35th Division Band during the afternoon. Period music accompanied authentically costumed Guardsmen reading excerpts from diaries and letters written by Guardsmen from the Civil War through Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Inside the museum, a "Dialogue With the Troops" allowed visitors to hear from Soldiers from Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, who had recently returned from a year-long deployment in Iraq.



Displays of military equipment, such as this Paladin howitzer, were on hand for the public to view. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)



**Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting and some children share a moment with Sgt. 1st Class Howard Williams, a cavalry soldier re-enactor, and his mount following the inspection ceremony. Williams is a member of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)**



# Military ball highlights 150th birthday celebration

**By Spc. Terrance Lovchik, 105th MPAD**  
“Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the 150th anniversary of the Kansas National Guard.”

With those words from Sgt. Maj. Keith White, the senior operations sergeant for the 35th Infantry Division and the Master of Ceremonies for the night, the 150th Anniversary of the Kansas National Guard Celebration Ball was underway – and what a celebration it was.

Following White’s introduction, The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, took the podium. Tonight was an occasion for history and symbolism, so Bunting chose to tell the story of the creation of our state flag.

“Major General McLain, who was the adjutant general of Kansas from 1925 to 1951,” Bunting began, “designed this official flag.” Bunting told the audience that the flag was first flown in Fort Riley, Kan., for Kansas National Guard Soldiers and that the state banner was also designed by Lt. Col. Joe Nichol, another former adjutant general.

The ball was also used as an opportunity to unveil a special painting by Dale Gallon, a renowned military artist, which depicts the Eighth Kansas Infantry charging Missionary Ridge during the Civil War Battle of Chattanooga. The original oil



**Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, addresses the audience assembled for the military ball celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Kansas National Guard. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)**

painting was presented to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius by Gallon himself, who also remained on hand to sign and sell prints of the painting. Gallon was commissioned by the Kansas National Guard to create a

visual representation memorializing the 150th anniversary. The charge at Missionary Ridge was chosen because it displayed the broad impact Kansas National Guard Soldiers have had on

national defense, even at such an early period in the organization’s history.

Sebelius was also presented with the official 150th anniversary banner and had the honor of cutting into another special piece of art: cake. The majestic four tiered tower went well with the wine from a Kansas winery, decorated with commemorative 150th anniversary labels.

Not all of the ceremony was as joyous, however. Shortly after the posting of the colors by the 1st Kansas Volunteer Color Guard, made up of re-enactors representing several different eras of Kansas military history, came the traditional POW-MIA toast. This somber moment reminded all of the sacrifices that have been made in order to ensure the safety and security of our great nation and state.

To this end, Sebelius told the crowd, “On behalf of the citizens of Kansas, for your commitment to the tradition and to the safety and security of our state and our nation, we are grateful for your service and your sacrifice. God bless you all.”

The celebration soon turned back to the festivities with a rendition of “Home on the Range,” followed by a concert by the Bop Daddies. The band played hit songs from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s, closing out the night to a dance floor full of cheerful faces and feet.



**Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, wait to cut the ceremonial birthday cake for the anniversary ball celebration. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)**



**Military history artist Paul Gallon shakes hands with Gov. Kathleen Sebelius after presenting her with a painting commissioned for the Kansas National Guard’s 150th anniversary celebration. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)**

## Memorial service brings tears and words of encouragement

**By Spc. Terrance Lovchik, 105th MPAD**  
The Kansas National Guard has many traditions that have transcended time, traditions that have evolved over the years to become steadfastly entrenched in the culture of our military service. The traditions range from the ceremonial inspection, as was performed on Aug. 27, 2005, at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard at Forbes Field, to the various flags and banners displayed by the many units throughout our state. It is important to remember, though, that none of us would be able to enjoy any of these traditions had it not been for the Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice so that those who survived would remain free to celebrate the rich history of our nation and state.

On Aug. 28, under a tent set up outside the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general; State Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Rodina; Chaplain (Col.) Gregg Riley, chaplain for Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas; and many others gathered together for a memorial service doing just that.

“Today we honor their memory and the priceless gift which they laid upon the altar of freedom,” said Chaplain Riley.

It was a day filled with prayer and song. It was a day for looking back over the 150

year history of the Kansas National Guard in remembrance of the Soldiers and families who made this nation and this state so great.

“When we go about our daily lives it must be in the back of our minds, ‘I am here because of what you did for me,’” said Bunting. “Again and again, American military men and women have put aside their personal lives to go where they were needed in the name of freedom, and we must not forget that.”

“Today we are engaged in a new war, a war where the enemy has no country and hides in the shadows preying on the innocent and making no distinction between men, women and children,” said Bunting. “And once again our service men and women and their families are being asked to make sacrifices to keep our homeland secure so that others may know the blessings of liberty.”

Bunting also relayed the stories of some of the Soldiers who have recently fallen and a list of all of the conflicts that the Kansas National Guard took part in was read.

After the prayers were prayed, the hymns sung, and the stories relayed, Bunting and Rodina stepped outside the tent to salute a memorial wreath which represented the fallen Soldiers.

“As we hear ‘taps’ play today at the conclusion of our ceremony, let us not be sad,



**Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, and State Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Rodina salute a wreath placed in memory of Kansas servicemen who have given their lives in the service of their state and nation during a memorial service held Aug. 28, 2005. The service was part of a year-long celebration marking the Kansas National Guard’s 150th anniversary. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)**

but remember with glad and thankful hearts all those who in the name of this great state of Kansas and in defense of our nation’s liberties and ideals have fallen in our conflicts,” said Riley.

As the crowd dispersed from the memori-

al, some left silently with tears in their eyes while others lingered over the memories of their loved ones. It was a ceremony that touched all who attended and a tradition that will, sadly, be repeated over and over until there are no more wars to be won.



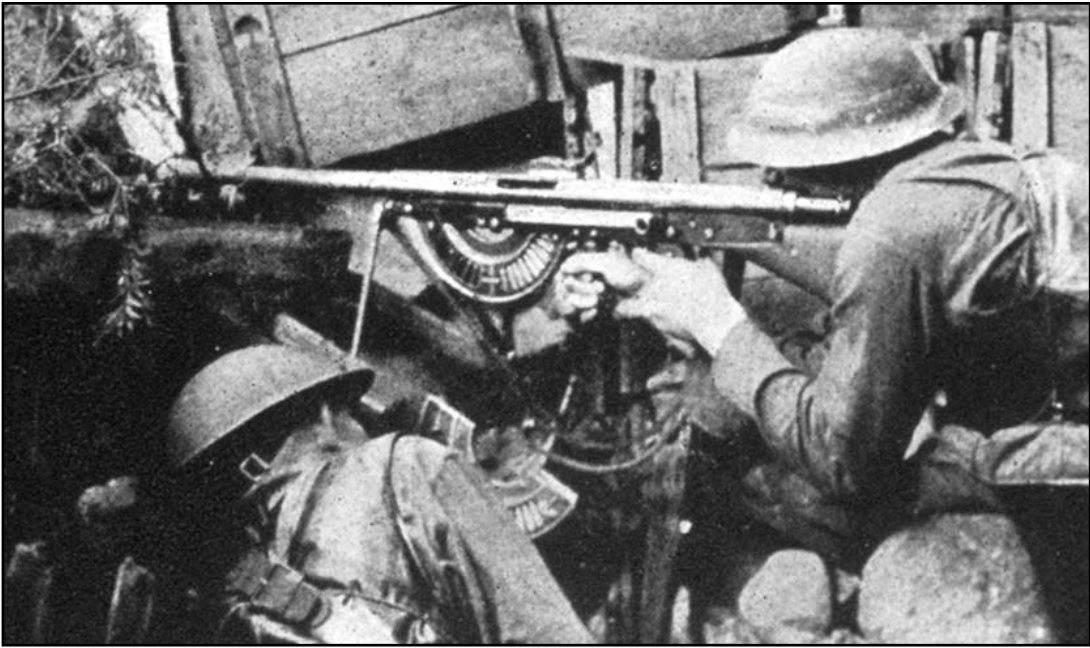
# Visions of the past: A camera’s eye on the Kansas National Guard

It is known as the “Legislative War of 1893.” The Republican and Populist parties both claimed to have a majority in the Kansas House of Representatives after the 1892 election. Neither party would back down, each swearing in deputies, scuffling on the House floor and trying not to leave the building to prevent the other party’s taking over. At one point, the Populists tried to lock Republicans out of Representative Hall, but Republicans broke down the door, barring themselves inside. Violence seemed unavoidable. The Kansas City Star wrote that Topeka’s Kansas Avenue was “too wide for a street and hardly wide enough for a cornfield” but “would make a fairly roomy battlefield.” The governor called out the militia, which sent eight National Guard companies and a light artillery battery armed with carbines and Gatling guns. Order was restored. The only bloodshed was a National Guardsmen’s broken nose.



The 20th Kansas Regiment was not expected to fight well. The Soldiers arrived in San Francisco in mid-1898 and became a joke in the local press. Few Soldiers had pieces of the Army’s blue uniforms and many lacked shoes or boots. Col. Frederick Funston, appointed by the Kansas governor to command the regiment, arrived later that year and began whipping the Soldiers into shape. When fighting erupted in the Philippines in February 1899, people began to rethink their assessment of the regiment. In the taking of Caloocan, the 20th fought so hard the general leading the battle sent this message to headquarters: “Kansas a mile advance of the line. Will stop them if I can.” He couldn’t. Three Kansans received the Medal of Honor for the Battle of Caloocan, only one of 19 battles they fought in the Philippines, for which they earned the title “The Fighting 20th.”

Ten divisions. 400,000 Soldiers. A month-and-a-half of fighting. The Meuse-Argonne offensive was the largest operation and most important victory of World War I – and the Kansas National Guard was there. From its position near the Aire River, Kansas’s 35th Infantry Division faced Germany’s second *Landwehr* and the First Guard Division, arguably the most feared of German troops. The fighting lasted from Sept. 26, 1918, until the signing of the armistice on Nov. 11. Nearly 1,500 35th Division Soldiers were killed in the Argonne Battle – many of them in the first four days of the battle – and more than 6,000 were injured.



2nd Lt. Erwin Bleckley was the first of three National Guard aviators to receive the Medal of Honor during the 20th century. Bleckley, a Wichita native and field artilleryman from the Kansas National Guard’s 130th Field Artillery Regiment, volunteered for forward observation duty with the Air Service and was attached to the 50th Aero Squadron, Army Air Service. In October 1918, Bleckley and other members of the squadron were assigned to locate and resupply the 1st Battalion, 308th Infantry, 77th Division, the “Lost Battalion” that had been completely cut off by German forces. Having failed to locate the battalion on their first mission of the day, Bleckley and his pilot, 1st Lt. Harold E. Goettler, volunteered for a second flight. They drew intense enemy fire while making several passes over the area and German machine gunners fired down at the flyers from the ridges, as well as from below. Badly wounded, they made a crash landing near a French outpost. The pilot was dead and Bleckley died before the French could evacuate him to a medical aid station. Bleckley’s notes from the mission narrowed the search area and the trapped Soldiers were found. For this act of bravery, they received the Medal of Honor, posthumously.

# An Overview: U.S. National Guard history began 370 years ago

When Kansas was still a territory, Citizen-Soldiers began protecting Kansas homes and families as they left farms, businesses and other work places to defend the state and nation when called.

As members of the National Guard of the United States, they trace their roots to the organized “militia” regiments formed in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in December 1636. “Militia,” from the Latin “miles,” means “soldier.” The concept of armed citizenry comes from the Greeks who required military service of free male citizens to defend their own land and the city-state, generally for short durations. That concept, which came to the colonies from England through the Saxons, brought with it an enduring fear of standing armies – the repressive forces of monarchs. The posting of British Regulars in the colonies reinforced that fear and distrust of full-time soldiers among Americans.

“Minutemen” from that same colony’s militia fired the “shot heard around the world” at Concord River’s North Bridge on April 19, 1775, and began our nation’s struggle for independence from Britain. We gained that independence with the help of the Marquis de Lafayette, a volunteer commander for American troops, and on his return to America in 1824, members of a New York militia took the name “National Guard” in honor of the Marquis who was the commander of a French mili-



“The First Muster” by Don Troiani. National Guard Heritage Series

tia unit called the “Garde Nationale de Paris.” By the end of the 19th century, militia units in nearly all states were designated “National Guard” and with the passage of the Militia Act of 1903, the name National Guard became official.

Both the Army and Air National Guard seals are built around the “Minuteman,” the symbol of the National Guard. During

colonial times, the Minutemen were the members of the militia who volunteered to respond within 30 minutes with their own arms. The plowshare in the Minuteman symbol represents the civilian job the Guardsman leaves as he picks up his musket to answer the call to serve our state or nation.

The forerunner of the Kansas National Guard, the Kansas Militia, was formed on Aug. 30, 1855, when the Territorial Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Kansas established “An Act to organize, discipline and govern the militia of this Territory.” The Act also provided for the Territorial Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, to appoint and commission one adjutant general to oversee the territorial militia. The first Territorial Adjutant General was Hiram J. Strickler, who was appointed on Aug. 31, 1855. On Jan. 29, 1861, six years after the formation of the territorial militia, Kansas became the 34th state and the state militia was organized into units of the Kansas National Guard. Article 8, Section 4 of the Kansas Constitution designates the Governor of Kansas as the commander in chief for state duties. The U.S. Congress passed the Militia Act of 1903, providing the same organization and equipment for the National Guard in each state as provided to the U. S. Army.

The Kansas National Guard consists of the Kansas Army National Guard and the Kansas Air National Guard, the latter established on Sept. 18, 1947.

The Kansas National Guard has been involved in the nation’s conflicts since the state’s inception as a territory. The Kansas Guard actively participated in the Civil War, 1861-1865; Indian Wars, 1864-1870; Spanish-American War, 1898-1899; Mexican Border, 1916; World War I, 1917-1919; World War II, 1940-1946; Korean

War, 1950-1952; Berlin Crisis, 1961-1962; Air National Guard Squadron Tactical Reconnaissance Interceptor Program alert (STRIP), 1955-1965; Vietnam War, 1966-1969; 8044 (formerly Single Integrated Operations Plan Alert), 1978 - present; Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm, 1990-1991; Operations Northern and Southern Watch in Southwest Asia, 1992 - 2002; Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, 1992-1993; Operations Joint Endeavor, Deny Flight and Joint Guardian in Bosnia-Herzegovina, 1995-2003; Operations Phoenix Scorpion, Phoenix Scorpion III and Desert Fox in Southwest Asia, 1997 and 1998; Operation Allied Force in Kosovo, 1999 - present; the Global War on Terrorism (Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle), 2001- present; and Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2003 - present.

During the Philippine Insurrection following the Spanish-American War, five Kansas Guardsmen were awarded the Medal of Honor for their heroic actions. Col. Frederick Funston was the most famous of these Guardsmen. The others were Pvt. Edward White, Pvt. William Trembley, 1st Lt. Arthur Ferguson and Sgt. John A. Huntsman.

Another Medal of Honor recipient was William F. Cody, a.k.a. “Buffalo Bill” Cody, who was a member of the 7th Kansas Cavalry during the Civil War. Cody earned his medal for gallantry in 1872 during the Indian Wars when he was a civilian scout assigned to the 3rd U.S. Cavalry.

A posthumous award was presented to 2nd Lt. Erwin Bleckley for helping to save the “Lost Battalion” during World War I. He began military service by enlisting in the Kansas Army National Guard’s Battery F, 1st Field Artillery, which later became the 130th Field Artillery Regiment. His interest in aviation led him to volunteer for the Army Air Service, the forerunner of the U.S. Army Air Corps, which later became the U.S. Air Force. As the first aviator to earn the Medal of Honor, he is claimed by the Kansas Air National Guard and U.S. Air Force, although in reality he was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard.

Col. Don Ballard, a retired member of the Kansas Army National Guard, saved lives while risking his own life as a Navy medic in Vietnam and is the only living Kansas Guard Medal of Honor recipient.

Kansas Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen have also served our state supporting civil authority in the 1888-89 County Seat Wars, the 1893 Legislative War, labor disputes in 1886 and 1893, and during student unrest over the Vietnam conflict in the 1960s. They continue to train to assist civil authority today. They also serve to protect Kansans in response to emergencies and disasters throughout the state, including tornadoes, floods, snowstorms and other weather-related and man-made emergencies and disasters.

## First adjutant general served twice

(Source: Topeka (Kansas) Commonwealth, Aug. 2, 1873. Transcription provided by Bryce Benedict)

Gen. Hiram J. Strickler was born in Page County, Virginia, in 1831. He was educated at the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington as a surveyor and civil engineer. After completing his course at that institution, famous from Stonewall Jackson’s connection with it and as being the military nursery of most of the famous officers of the confederacy, he came west, and in January or February, 1855, settled in Shawnee



Hiram J. Strickler

County, on a tract of land which he subsequently pre-empted. He was a member of the first territorial council, and served in that body with distinguished ability. He was remarkable more for his constant, quiet and steady attention to the ordinary business of legislation than for any show of oratory or brilliancy in debate. When the office of territorial auditor was created in 1858, he was appointed to the position, and continued to hold that office notwithstanding the various political changes that occurred, until our admission into the Union. He discharged the duties of the office with ability and fidelity, and in a manner eminently satisfactory to the people of the state. After our admission he never held any political office, nor was he ever an aspirant for any. In 1861 he retired to his farm and devoted himself wholly to agricultural pursuits. He was one of the pioneers in the organization of the state agricultural society, and soon after its formation was chosen its secretary, a position he held uninterruptedly for five or six years, and in which he gave perfect satis-

faction. In 1871 he was elected president of the same society, which office he held for one year. Since that time he has participated unofficially in the business of the society, and at all times evinced the deepest interest in its continued success and financial prosperity.

Gen. Strickler is better known to old residents from his militia record as commander-in-chief of the administration militia in that lively, grotesque, but bloodless campaign known to fame as the “Wakarusa war.” In 1855 or ‘56 he was appointed adjutant general of the state militia, and as such he was a participant in all the early troubles of the territory. This position he held until January 1858. It was during this time that he commanded the forces called into the field in 1855 by order of Gov. Shannon.

On the occasion of the capture of S. C. Pomeroy, afterwards U. S. Senator, who was carried into Gen. Strickler’s camp, he endangered his own life in order to preserve that of Pomeroy who was threatened with hanging by an infuriated and half drunken mob.

In 1861 Gen. Strickler married Miss Hattie Stanton, daughter of Hon. Frederick P. Stanton, former secretary of the territory. He leaves a wife and six children in easy and comfortable circumstances, the fruits of his own labor since settling in the state.

Gen. Strickler, though a life long Democrat, was of that fair minded type of man who commanded the respect and regard of any opponent even in that season of bitter controversies growing out of political differences in our early days. His character was unimpeachable, his personal honor beyond question.

He was too self-reliant to be effusive, or to form close and warm friendships, but he was a manly man, and treated all with that respect and fairness that compelled a return in kind. In General Strickler the state has lost an invaluable citizen, and its agricultural interests an earnest, enthusiastic and indefatigable friend.

Gen. Strickler died Aug. 31, 1873, and is buried in Topeka Cemetery, Section 14, Lot 43.

## PLAINS GUARDIAN

The PLAINS GUARDIAN is published bimonthly under the provisions of AR 360-1 for the personnel of the Kansas National Guard. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of The Adjutant General’s department PA Officer. Contents of the PLAINS GUARDIAN are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of the Army or The Adjutant General’s Department. News, features, photographs, and art materials are solicited from readers; however, utilization is at the discretion of the editorial staff. No paid advertisement will be accepted, nor will payment be made for contributions.

Circulation: Approximately 15,500  
Printed under contract with the U.S. Government Printing Office

**Commander-in-Chief**  
Gov. Kathleen Sebelius  
**Adjutant General of Kansas**  
Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting

**Editor**  
Sharon Watson  
**Production/Graphics/Writer**  
Stephen D. Larson  
**Production Assistant**  
Jane Welch

**Public Affairs Office**  
  
Director  
Sharon Watson 785-274-1192  
  
Assistant Director  
Stephen D. Larson 785-274-1194  
  
Administrative Assistant  
Jane Welch 785-274-1190  
FAX 785-274-1622  
e-mail: jane.e.welch1@us.army.mil



# Mobile Museum takes Kansas Guard history across the state

By Spc. Terrance Lovchik, 105th MPAD

Brig. Gen. Jonathan Small, assistant adjutant general – Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, knew that the 150th anniversary of the Kansas National Guard should be one celebrated by the entire state. He understood that this was a momentous occasion that would present an opportunity to promote public interest in the organization while also instilling a sense of pride and accomplishment to members of the Guard both past and present. What he struggled with was how to include the entire state in such an event, when it clearly would have been impossible for him to be everywhere at once.

For the answer to this question, he turned to the 150th Anniversary Committee. This committee was headed by Small and comprised of several other people, both civilian and military, who have been associated with the success of the Kansas National Guard in one way or another for many years. Among these members, Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs found an answer.

“When we had one of our original organizational meetings for the 150th celebration, it was presented by General Small that he would like to have a way to touch every community that had a National Guard armory,” said Jacobs. “He wanted to be able to reach out and draw that community into the event. While sitting in that meeting talking, I said that I had just gotten this automobile trailer that would make a perfect museum. He thought that was a good idea and the other members of the committee thought it was good idea.”

The idea stuck and soon Jacobs was busy converting his automobile trailer into a mobile museum of the history of the Kansas National Guard. The original mission for the Mobile Museum was to take the 150th anniversary celebration to com-

## Statehouse ceremony caps anniversary celebration

By Spc. Terrance Lovchik, 105th MPAD

“Happy Birthday everybody as we turn 150,” said Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, the state’s 35th adjutant general, as he kicked off the day’s events at the capitol building in Topeka on Aug. 30.

Bunting went on to introduce some of the special commemorative displays on hand for the event. Those pieces were a laurel wreath that served as a symbol for 150 years of service and depicts Kansas, a giant birthday card that was also made available for everyone in attendance to sign, a time capsule that will be reopened in 50 years, and a historic saber and sword that would be used to cut the 150th birthday cake.

After Bunting’s introductions, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius took the podium to address the crowd.

“I’ve seen a lot of you all lately,” she said, the crowd responding with laughter. “I’ve seen you dressed up in your finery on Saturday and in your combat gear on Saturday morning,” she continued, referring to the Anniversary Banquet and Dance on the night of Saturday, Aug. 27 at the Kansas Expocentre and the Inspection Ceremony held that same morning at the Kansas National Guard Museum in Forbes Field. “Those three days, back-to-back with this ceremony remind me of the different roles you play and the fact that this is very real. It is a very real service and a very real time that needs patriots and that is what the Kansas National Guard is all about.”

Sebelius went on to acknowledge that the role of the Kansas National Guard is much different now than it has been in the past, with members being “called upon to serve overseas and leave their family and job for extended periods of time.” She also



**Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs presents Shawnee County Commissioner Marice Kane with a historical print of the Kansas National Guard during the “Whistle Stop Caravan,” a state-wide tour by the Mobile Museum of the Kansas National Guard. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)**

munities throughout the state in what became dubbed the “Whistle Stop Tour.” In the museum are several pieces of historical importance that Jacobs and the committee felt would help provide some insight into the tradition and pride of the Kansas National Guard.

“The concept of the mobile museum is to carry artifacts and show our history to the communities,” Jacobs said.

Included in those pieces are a 1950s Jeep, examples of rations from different periods and several photographs and paintings that depict the history of the Kansas National Guard from the beginning of the

organization up until present day. There are also several displays of period uniforms, including uniforms from the Civil War, World War I and World War II. In addition, there are some interactive displays of the various types of headgear worn by National Guardsmen throughout the years so that people can see what it is like to wear a Vietnam War era helmet, an Airmen’s helmet, a helicopter pilot’s helmet or modern style Kevlar.

To broaden the appeal and to acknowledge that the Kansas National Guard is in the business of national defense, the mobile museum has periodically included a Light Antitank Weapon and Tube-launched, Optically tracked, Wire-guided missile.

“We do not typically carry any kind of weapons on the Mobile Museum because it is not appropriate for us to do so. We do not have a secure enough area to keep,

plus we go to a lot of schools where there are small children,” Jacobs said.

Weaponry or not, the Mobile Museum has been a smashing success, making it as far as Washington, D.C., to help celebrate Kansas Day; the Army Readiness Center at Andrew Air Force Base in Arlington, Va.; the National Guard Association Building as part of the 150th anniversary celebration; as well as throughout the state of Kansas. The Mobile Museum has also become a critical piece of the Museum of the Kansas National Guard at Forbes Field in Topeka, presenting an opportunity for people outside of Topeka to witness and donate to the preservation of the important history of the Kansas National Guard.

“We have received artifacts out on the road, a lot of photographs,” said Jacobs. “When I was in Abilene not too long ago I received a picture of Harry Colmery and President Eisenhower. Colmery was the guy who helped draft the G.I. Bill.”

In addition to items such as this, the Mobile Museum also collected various artifacts to be placed inside a time capsule that will be reopened when the Kansas National Guard celebrates its 200th anniversary. The time capsule includes seven keys to various cities throughout the state, proclamations and letters of support, a baseball cap, a western handkerchief from a cowboy in Dodge City, unit patches, an MIA flag, a photo of a Rodeo Queen, the actual whistle used during the whistle stop tour and city maps and planning maps to show the developments that will occur over the next 50 years.

The original “Whistle Stop Tour” has come to a close, along with the year-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Kansas National Guard. That does not mean, however, that the Mobile Museum’s doors will be sealed like the time capsule now on display at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard. On the contrary, due to the resounding success and positive feedback the mobile museum received, Jacobs says that the trailer will continue to be displayed throughout the state as a memorial to the vast history of our state’s military.

## Ceremony commemorates Battle of Prairie Dog Creek

By Maj. Toni Truelove

As community members filtered into Long Island Community Center on Aug. 21, 2005, with home-made treats, the seats began to fill up until there was standing room only. The Community Center hosted an open house which included a commemoration of the Battle of Prairie Dog Creek, which occurred on Aug. 21, 1867. This date marked the first time the Kansas National Guard/volunteer militia was called into Federal service for Indian Wars.

The 18th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry joined forces with the 10th U.S. Cavalry, more commonly known as the Buffalo Soldiers, to protect settlers, travelers and railroad workers from attacks by the Indians. These Soldiers were attacked by hundreds of Native Americans near Long Island, Kan., north of Prairie Dog Creek.

Col. Eric Peck, Kansas Army National Guard Chief of Staff, was the guest speaker for the commemoration. He spoke of the battle and of our dedicated Kansans, both those who fought before, and those who are fighting now. “We are still defending the nation, but are defending it some place else,” said Peck.

He also spoke of a State of the Union address given by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in which he articulated our four freedoms – freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want

and freedom from fear. He then presented local officials with a framed National Guard heritage print of the battle. He concluded by saying, “May God bless America, and may God bless you all.”

The commemoration included period re-enactors with authentic uniforms, supplies and weapons, also inside the Community Center. Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs, Kansas Army National Guard Technician Management Branch Chief, hosted the Kansas National Guard Mobile Museum, along with a Civil War cannon, which was open to the public.

The museum was opened up again the next day so the students from Northern Valley Junior High School could come by to visit and participate in a question and answer session. Jacobs talked about the upcoming Aug. 30 birthday of the Kansas National Guard and also talked about the battle. The students were invited to ask questions about the military and the National Guard in particular. They were pleased with the opportunity to get out of the classroom and learn more about the Kansas National Guard and the Battle of Prairie Dog Creek. National Guard heritage prints of the battle were then given to the school’s principal and teachers.

The event was closed with a period of silence in remembrance for those who died in battle.



# Celebrating 150 years of service

Inspection  
August  
Museum of the Kan  
Topeka



Ceremonial  
Color Guard

Joint Forces  
Headquarters Staff

Command Group

35<sup>th</sup> Division

35<sup>th</sup> Division  
Artillery

161<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery

130<sup>th</sup> Field  
Artillery Brigade

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 127<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 130<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery

69<sup>th</sup> Troop Command



# e by the Kansas National Guard

Ceremony  
27, 2005  
Kansas National Guard  
a, Kan.



235<sup>th</sup>  
Regiment

184<sup>th</sup> Air  
Refueling  
Wing

190<sup>th</sup> Air  
Refueling  
Wing

Ceremonial  
Salute  
Battery

35<sup>th</sup> Division Band

Deployed  
891<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion  
169<sup>th</sup> Corps Support Battalion  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 635<sup>th</sup> Armor





A ceremonial howitzer fires a round for a cannon salute during the 150th anniversary inspection ceremony. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)



Military history artist Dale Gallon signs a print of his painting “The Battle of Missionary Ridge” for Lt. Col. Duke Hester. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)



Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, who recently returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom, share their experiences with the public during an open forum. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)



Maj. Monte Weathers (right) chats with re-enactors portraying Soldiers from the World War II era. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)



The 35th Division Band presented a musical retrospective of the Kansas National Guard’s history. Costumed re-enactors read excerpts from diaries and letters as the band played music appropriate to each historical era. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)





Chaplain (Col.) Gregg Riley led the memorial service on Sunday morning. See story on Page 2. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)



Citizens and Citizen-Soldiers filled a tent for a memorial service outside the Museum of the Kansas National Guard. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)



A pair of boots, a helmet and a rifle the traditional memorial to Soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of freedom. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)



A special 150th birthday cake was cut by sabers during a birthday party at the Kansas Statehouse on Aug. 30, 2005. See story on Page 5. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)



Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general, presents a commemorative artillery shell casing to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, commander in chief of the Kansas National Guard. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)



# Visions of the past: A look at Kansas National Guard history



In the fall of 1944, the Allies had suffered major setbacks—Operation Market Garden had failed to break through in the west and the Russian army had stalled in Poland. The Germans had the momentum and knew it was their last chance to launch an offensive. On Dec. 16, 1944, Germany began a surprise attack in the Ardennes region of France. Infantry began the attack, followed by the Fifth Panzer army and the newly formed and highly elite 6th SS Panzer army. Destroying the Panzer tanks these armies relied upon was the job of American tank busters like those of the Kansas National Guard’s 635th Tank Destroyer Battalion, which distinguished itself in the battle that proved to be the beginning of the end of the German army.

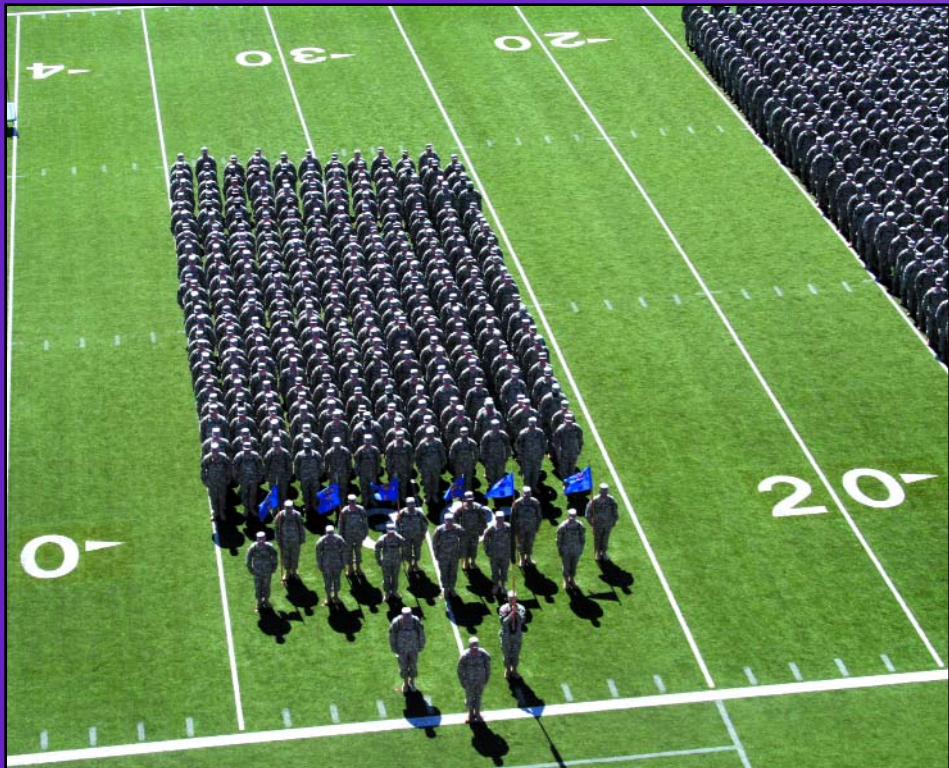
It’s become a mantra in the Army: “Train as you fight.” Usually, this also means that you fight beside the people with whom you’ve trained. For the Soldiers of Kansas’ 69th Infantry Brigade, however, this wasn’t an option. In May 1968, the Soldiers of the 69th arrived in Fort Carson, Colo., and for the next two years, the unit would fight what was jokingly called the “Battle of Fort Carson,” a battle against boredom and complacency. Still, individual Soldiers would be selected for duty as replacements in Vietnam. In all, nearly 2,400 Soldiers of the 69th Brigade would see action in Vietnam. Hundreds were wounded in combat and 40 made the ultimate sacrifice.



The year was 1991. Tensions in Iraq had escalated, and the first Gulf War began. Not content to sit on the sidelines while other Soldiers and Airmen risked their lives liberating the Kurds and promoting democracy, 500 members of the Kansas Air National Guard’s 190th Air Refueling Wing volunteered for active duty. They deployed to Saudi Arabia on Aug. 10, 1991. The 190th epitomizes the courage and selfless service of the Kansas National Guard. They took the concept of a “volunteer guard” to heart for service in the Kansas Air National Guard and for active duty in a war zone.



# Today...



Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation mobilized to Fort Hood, Texas, in preparation for deployment to Iraq. Here, they stand in formation during a deployment ceremony held July 30 in Killeen, Texas. (Photo by Jane Welch)



Members of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 130th Field Artillery Brigade stand in formation, waiting to board buses that will take them on the first leg of their journey to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Photo by Jane Welch)



Members of the 184th Civil Engineering Squadron constructed more than 2,000 feet of fence along the U.S.-Mexico border as part of Operation Jump Start, a U.S. Homeland Security project to secure the border. Their achievement was more than the combined efforts of all previous units that worked on the project. (Photo by Master Sgt. Neil Fogg)



The 190th Air Refueling Wing Security Forces return to Kansas after a six-month deployment to Afghanistan. The Security Forces members were part of a first-ever U. S. Air Force Security Forces participation in Detainee Operations. (Photo by Stephen D. Larson)

**In the Minuteman tradition,  
I serve my community, state and nation as  
Citizen, Soldier and Airman.  
I am the Kansas National Guard.**



# Memorabilia keeps 150th anniversary memories fresh

As part of the Kansas National Guard’s 150th anniversary celebration, the commemorative committee designed and produced several items of memorabilia featuring the official 150th anniversary logo, including T-shirts, mugs and a special “challenge coin.” Limited quantities of these items are still available for purchase.

Prints of the commissioned painting “Battle of Missionary Ridge” are also available for purchase by contacting Lt. Col. Mark Stevens (785-274-1188); mark.stevens1@us.army.mil or Lt. Col. Barry Adams (785-274-1070); Barry.Adams@ng.army.mil.

For information on purchasing coins, mugs or T-shirts, contact Lt. Col. Bruce Woolpert (785-274-1024); bruce.woolpert@ng.army.mil. Information on these items is also available on the official 150th anniversary Web site ([www.Kansas.gov/ksadjutantgeneral/150thGuardAnniversary](http://www.Kansas.gov/ksadjutantgeneral/150thGuardAnniversary)).



Commemorative print “Battle of Missionary Ridge”

Commemorative T-shirt front (above) and back (below)



Commemorative coin obverse(left) and reverse (right)



Commemorative insulated mug

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